

**APPROVED BY**

*Erin Shaughnessy*

**Lakewood Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board**

**April 17, 2019 Meeting**

**Location: Lakewood City Hall**

**Present:** Board Members: Erin Shaughnessy, Nancy Binder, Phyllis Dykes, Emily Christescu, Nancy McDonnell, Cassie Gaffney, Juleen Russell  
Councilperson Tristan Rader, ACO Jack Crawford

**Not present:**

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**Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board Committee Meeting**

**Minutes Wednesday April 17, 2019**

**I. Welcome and roll call conducted by Board Member Shaughnessy. 7 voting members present.**

**II. Approval of March Meeting Minutes - Board**

- a. Unanimous verbal vote in favor of motion to waive formal reading of the minutes.  
No discussion on minutes as presented. Motion passes to approve the minutes.

**III. Public Comment**

Motion to move public comment to the beginning of the meeting; motion seconded; motion passes.

- a. Melissa Banjoff - Ms. Banjoff spoke with Captain Stone about her concerns regarding dispatchers telling citizens if they cannot keep an at-large dog found after ACO hours, it should be released. She is concerned for the safety of the animal and for the burden and potential expense it places on the citizen who found it. She contacted two shelters, including Westpark Animal Hospital and MedVet, neither of which was willing to accept the at-large dog. Ms. Banjoff offered volunteer dog trainers to work with police officers on safe dog handling.
- b. Emily Petro - Ms. Petro made five phone calls before she was able to find help for an injured cat. She called West Park Animal Hospital and they told her she would be responsible for the animal's care. She then called MedVet West and they offered pro-bono euthanasia, but otherwise would charge her for any services. She called the non-emergency Lakewood Police line, which told her they would put the cat to sleep. She called VCA Great Lakes in Warrensville Hts which operates 24 hours and they accepted the cat pro-bono. The cat survived and was reunited with his owner. A relative found a stray dog and was told by dispatchers to keep the stray dog overnight in her back yard. She emailed Captain Stone but has not received a response. She believes Lakewood needs to implement a protocol and have better communication between the Police Department, ACO and the shelter.
- c. Kate Coghlin - Ms. Coghlin, President of CCLAS, believes CCLAS can work with local animal hospitals and find ways to assist at-large or injured animals when there is no other support but is concerned about maintaining their funds.

- d. Beth Heffner - Ms. Heffner volunteers with CCLAS and feels we have an opportunity to revise protocol. She assisted a friend with an injured dog and instructed him to call the non-emergency police line, who told him to release the dog. Her friend kept the dog overnight and it was later reunited with its owner. She suggests finding a way to hold at-large animals overnight and has concerns about the animals' safety with the current lack of protocol.
- e. Kara Vlach-Lasher - Ms. Vlach-Lasher (former Chair of LASWAB) explained that there was a report created in the past that outlines a process for found at-large animals. The General Manager of MedVet West had agreed to accept stray dogs in December of 2017 wherein the ACO could pick up the animals the next day. West Park was not accepting after hour stray holds from Lakewood at that time. A protocol was being created to train the dispatchers to advise citizens of our verbal agreement with MedVet and Captain Stone. A written agreement was not completed. ACO Crawford contacted MedVet this week and they currently do not accept our stray holds. West Park refused to accept our stray holds when ACO Crawford contacted them. ACO Elaine Hearn is working on a contract for stray holds and injured animals for MedVet to hold after hours until an ACO can retrieve the animal during business hours.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **IV. Announcements**

- a. Welcome new Board Member Cassie Gaffney, who was appointed by Councilperson Rader.
- b. Councilpersons Meghan George and Sam O'Leary have appointments available.

### **V. Lakewood Animal Control Report (ACO Crawford)**

- a. ACO Crawford reports two cats at the shelter.

### **VI. Protocol for injured animals during ACO hours**

- a. Dogs and cats will be taken to West Park or Lakewood Animal Hospital. The city will keep the dog comfortable until an owner is found, then evaluated on an ongoing basis. CCLAS may step in and help if an animal is abandoned.
- b. The Board requests to see the current agreement or contract for during or after-hours stray hold or injured animals. The Board will provide a recommendation to the administration that written contracts need to be in place.
- c. CCLAS President Coughlin would like to see the protocol with the city first before advising the Board.
- d. Councilperson Rader will contact Captain Stone and have a robust discussion about our structure and what other cities are doing.

### **VII. 2019 Committees/ Working Group Plan Updates**

- a. Committees will continue to work as deadlines are approaching.
- b. Wildlife Education & Outreach (Board Member Shaughnessy)
  - i. Distemper fact sheet available for use when needed with input from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

- ii. ACO will collect dead animals if reported by a citizen. ACO will send the dead animal to the county for testing. ACO Crawford to discuss with ACO Hearn if USDA phone number should be included on the fact sheet.
  - iii. Motion made to approve distemper fact sheet; motion seconded; motion passes.
- c. Dog Ordinances (Board Member Shaughnessy)
  - i. Education of picking up dog poop and leash laws mentioned.
- d. Spay and Neuter Education and Outreach (Board Member Binder)
  - i. Low cost neuter day addendum accepted to allow all Lakewood residents for spay/neuter day, removing cost restrictions to low income residents.
  - ii. Flyers for transfer day presented.
  - iii. Spay/neuter working plan updated.
- e. Community Events (Board Member McDonnell)
  - i. Working to acquire donated shirts for 4th of July Parade.
- f. Dog Bite Prevention Education (Board Member Shaughnessy)
  - i. Dog Bite Prevention week communication posted.
- g. Communications (Board Member Russell)
  - i. Will meet to discuss goals after speaking with Melissa Garrett and how she can assist with social media posting.
  - ii. FAQ page needs to be addressed.

#### VIII. Communications

- a. Tentative calendar for 2019 to be addressed next month.
- b. May
  - i. Dogs at Large (Dog Ordinances/Vlach-Lasher) motion made to approve; motion seconded; motion passes.
  - ii. Microchipping (Communications/Board Member Russell) motion made to approve with edit: Microchip Your Pet printed on image; motion seconded, motion passes
- c. June
  - i. Dog Ordinance Post - Board Member Russell to contact Melissa Garrett about last month's leash post that was not yet posted online and will request to have it posted in June if Ms. Garrett approves of the content.
  - ii. Vlach-Lasher suggests a post to remind citizens to report at large animals or animal attacks to the city, ACO Crawford agrees. Board Chair Shaughnessy will draft this post.
  - iii. Summer Safety - will focus on how to keep animals safe during 4th of July. Board Chair Shaughnessy will edit last year's information to ensure it is appropriate for 2019.

Motion is made to adjourn; motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.